In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

My dear,

Assalamo alikum wa Rahmtullah!

I hope this letter finds you well. Today, I reach out to you with a deep sense of conviction and importance to share insights that have profoundly impacted my understanding of existence and purpose. It is crucial that you, too, grasp these profound truths to navigate the path towards fulfillment and success in the life that awaits.

There was a time when our universe did not exist. This was 13.8 billion years ago. Allah, the Almighty, existed in an incorporeal state, encompassing all His power and glory.

Consider the awe-inspiring concept of Allah, the Almighty, and His eternal presence. Long before the universe as we know it came into being, Allah existed—transcendent, omnipotent, and omniscient. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) conveyed that before all creation, only Allah existed without beginning or end.

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:
"Allah existed eternally and nothing else existed."

Reflect on the attributes of Allah, the Almighty:

1- Omnipotent: All-powerful.

2- Omniscient: All-knowing.

3- Omnipresent: Present everywhere at the same time.

4- Omnibenevolent: All-good or infinitely good.

5- Omnificent: Having unlimited powers of creation.

6- Omnilingual: Able to speak or understand all languages.

7- Possessor of limitless attributes.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said:

"Our paradise is in our God. Our highest delight is in our God for we have seen Him and found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring even though one may have to lay down one's life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose one's self to acquire it. (*Roohani Khazain* Vol. 19: *Kashti Nuh*, pp. 21-22)

By the grace of God, I have been blessed with the profound experience of witnessing His presence. I've held this sacred revelation close to my heart and hidden, grappling with the humility of receiving such divine grace. Yet, I believe now is the fitting moment to share that I've been bestowed with the extraordinary gift of seeing the Divine.

I was listening to the Holy Qur'an in the woods, where I had gone for a three day camping trip a few years back. The vision was so powerful and all-encompassing and beautiful upon beautiful that my heart could not bear the sheer beauty of the vision. I felt my heart would shatter because it could not bear the intensity, perfection and depth of that beauty. There was an overwhelming abundance of divine knowledge, secrets, and impressions that, for some reason, I can't seem to recall now. My mind simply couldn't retain all of it.

I beheld a majestic realm, vast beyond measure, where every corner resounded with the celestial symphony of Allah's praise. From the heavens to the earth below, every atom joined in harmonious worship, transforming the entire cosmos into a breathtaking ode to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

God is so beautiful, sublime, glorious, mighty, radiant and magnificent that looking at his grand self, you are dumbfounded and have no option but to stammer and stutter at the sight of such beauty, charm and effulgent manifestation. He is the epitome of beauty, sublimity, and magnificence. The sheer sight of His noble manifestation leaves one speechless, overwhelmed by His boundless radiance and intensity.

Having beheld the countenance of my Beloved, whose uniqueness surpasses all, my heart now resides in an infinite ache, yearning for release from this mortal coil to return to my eternal abode.

The sheer beauty of my Beloved has left an everlasting wound upon my soul, a wound so profound that I can only dance amidst the echoes of my heart's blood for the duration of my earthly existence and hoping to catch another glimpse.

My feelings are appropriately expressed in the following poem of Maulana Jalaludin Rumi (may Allah have mercy on his soul):

<u>Looking for Your Face</u>

From the beginning of my life
I have been looking for your face
but today I have seen it

Today I have seen
the charm, the beauty,
the unfathomable grace
of the face
that I was looking for

Today I have found you
and those who laughed
and scorned me yesterday
are sorry that they were not looking
as I did

I am bewildered by the magnificence
of your beauty
and wish to see you
with a hundred eyes

My heart has burned with passion
and has searched forever
for this wondrous beauty
that I now behold

I am ashamed
to call this love human
and afraid of God
to call it divine

Your fragrant breath
like the morning breeze
has come to the stillness of the garden
You have breathed new life into me
I have become your sunshine
and also your shadow

My soul is screaming in ecstasy
Every fiber of my being
is in love with you

Your effulgence
has lit a fire in my heart
and you have made radiant
for me
the earth and sky

My arrow of love

has arrived at the target

I am in the house of mercy

and my heart

is a place of prayer”

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ العَظِيم

سبحان ذي الجبروت والملكوت والكبرياء والعظمة

Praise and Glory be to Allah!

Praise and Glory be to the One Who has all power, sovereignty, magnificence and might!

What I witnessed, and what others may have glimpsed of Allah, merely scratches the surface of His magnificence. Allah, in His mercy, withholds the full manifestation of His glory from us, for if He were to reveal it in its entirety, our mortal beings would be unable to withstand its overwhelming magnitude. The following has been mentioned in the sayings of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w):

حِجَابُهُ النُّورُ لَوْ كَشَفَهُ لأَحْرَقَتْ سُبُحَاتُ وَجْهِهِ مَا انْتَهَى إِلَيْهِ بَصَرُهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ

“His veil is Light, and if He were to remove it, the glory of his Face would burn everything of His creation, as far as His gaze reaches.”

Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) embarked upon a period of forty days of worship atop Mount Sinai, as documented in the Holy Qur’an. During this sacred period, a profound dialogue transpired between him and the Divine:

“When Moses came for the appointment, and his Lord spoke to him, he said, ‘My Lord, show Yourself to me: let me see You!’ He said, ‘You will never see Me, but look at that mountain: if it remains standing firm, you will see Me,’ and when his Lord revealed Himself to the mountain, He made it crumble: Moses fell down unconscious. When he recovered, he said, ‘Glory be to You! To You I turn in repentance! I am the first to believe!’”

Getting back to my original point about the creation of the universe, you may ask if Allah existed forever and was a perfect being why did he create the universe. He told the Holy Prophet (s.a.w) about the reason for creation. He said:

كنت كنزاً مخفياً فأحببت أن أعرف فخلقت الخلق لكى أعرف

“I was a hidden treasure; I loved to be known. Hence I created a creation (mankind), so that I would be known.”

God created the universe with the intention of being recognized. This implies His desire for creation to acknowledge Him. Additionally, He comprehended Himself intrinsically. Perceiving oneself within

one's own essence differs from seeing oneself reflected in another or a mirror. He fashioned humanity so that He could discern His likeness mirrored in their hearts.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty says:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٦﴾

"And I have not created the Jinn (i,e, creation in the unknown galaxies) and mankind but that they may worship Me."

Our main purpose in life is to acknowledge, love, and faithfully serve Allah. This is what gives our life its real meaning. Everything we do, every part of our life, is like a way to honor and follow this important purpose. When we follow this purpose, we find real happiness and success, both now and forever in the afterlife.

Sadly, many people get caught up in the routines of daily life and forget about the spiritual journey to God. It's like they're passengers on a ship, busy with everyday things like making money, eating, and sleeping, but forgetting to steer the ship towards the island that's our true home and purpose.

Let's not be like those who just go through life without a real direction. Instead, let's wake up to what our souls are calling for and set our sights on Allah, who is the final destination of our journey, where we'll find true happiness and understanding.

Allah has created us for his love. This love is a trust given to us. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمٰوٰتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ
فَأَبَيْنَ أَنْ يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحَمَلَهَا الْإِنْسَانُ ۖ
إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا ﴿٧٢﴾

Verily, We offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they refused to bear it and were afraid of it. But man bore it. Indeed, he is *capable of being* unjust *to*, *and* neglectful *of*, *himself*.

This trust is the love of Allah. He has given trust so that we may live according to it and fulfill the requirements of it even in times of trials and tribulations of life.
"Entrusting" is the act of giving someone the responsibility or authority to take care of something or someone. It involves placing trust and confidence in another person to handle a particular task, possession, or duty with care, integrity, and responsibility.

For example, when you entrust your pet to a friend while you're away, you're relying on them to feed, walk, and take care of your pet's needs. Similarly, in business or personal matters, entrusting someone with sensitive information, money, or important tasks means relying on them to handle these responsibilities competently and ethically.

The concept of entrusting implies a mutual understanding between the giver and the recipient, where the giver believes that the recipient will fulfill their obligations faithfully. It's often an expression of trust and confidence in the other person's abilities and integrity.

Even our body, heart and soul is a trust from Allah that we will take care of it and nourish it. We tend to nourish our bodies with food and drink but neglect to nourish our heart and soul with love and worship of Allah. Allah says:

اَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوْبُ
Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do the hearts find rest (and tranquility).

Let's deeply consider if we're truly living in alignment with the purpose for which Allah has created us. Are we devoutly performing our daily prayers? Are we honoring the responsibilities entrusted to us by Allah? Can we sincerely claim that we love Allah and that Allah, in turn, has begun to love us?

Prophet Muhammad (May peace and blessings be upon him) said : Allah, the Al-mighty said:

I am as My servant thinks (expects) I am. I am with him when he mentions Me.
If he mentions Me to himself, I mention him to Myself;
and if he mentions Me in an assembly,
I mention him in an assembly greater than it.
If he draws near to Me a hand’s length, I draw near to him an arm’s length.
And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him at speed.’” - (Sahih Bukhari)

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) established the cornerstone of his community upon ten foundational conditions. These principles delineate a code of conduct and ethical framework that guide our actions and lives. I urge you to earnestly contemplate these conditions and assess whether you are endeavoring to uphold them in your daily life.

Certainly, endeavoring to fulfill these conditions may present obstacles, and we might stumble along the path. But that's alright. God doesn't expect perfection from us right from the outset. It is imperative that we persist in our efforts, buoyed by the hope and trust that Allah, in His infinite mercy, will encompass and pardon our shortcomings.

Let us steadfastly pursue the path leading to God, ever mindful of our commitment to these sacred principles, and entrust our aspirations for spiritual growth to the benevolence of Allah.

I would say as Rumi has said:
“Whatever inspires the mind is of the perfume of my Beloved,
Whatever fires the heart is a ray from my Friend.”

“Never live without love, or you will be dead. Die with love and you will remain alive.”

I aspire to enter paradise to experience the presence of God reflected within the depths of my heart and soul, as articulated in the Quran.

وُجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَّاضِرَةٌ ﴿٢٢﴾ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاظِرَةٌ ﴿٢٣﴾

Some faces on that day will be radiant, Looking eagerly towards their Lord.

Will you come along with me on this beautiful quest?

Keep on polishing the mirror of your heart through devotion and worship that you start to see His sublime face in it and feel His presence gripping your heart and surrounding your spirit.

Your well-wisher and a friend,

Balal F. Khokhar

pathofmystics.com

"Come, come, whoever you are. Wanderer, idolater, worshiper of fire, come even though you have broken your vows a thousand times. Come, and come yet again. Ours is not a caravan of despair."
Rumi